



SURFACE BLASTER

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Surface Blaster*

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations and to record blasting examination information concerning blasting operations at surface mines.

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- One year blasting experience on a surface mine under the direction of a certified surface blaster or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Hold a General Miner Certification

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
■ Mined Land Reclamation Rules & Regs. (DMLR) (MR)	20
■ Blasting Practices (BP)	20
■ Electric Blasting (EB)	20
■ Explosive Products (EP)	20
■ Explosive Safety Procedures (ES)	40
■ Rules & Regulations (DM) (RR)	20
■ First Aid (FA)	20
■ Surface Blasting Record Practical (BR)	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR
- Coal Mine Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Surface Blasters Study Guide
- DMLR Rules & Regulations
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***5 year DMLR recertification required**